

## WARNINGS OF DEATH.

PRESIDENTS OF SOLDIERS BEFORE BATTLE FULFILLED AND UNFULFILLED.

Superstition About the Coincidence of a Birthday and a Battle—singular Result of an Army Poker Game and the Agreement of Two Comrades.

In reading the personal experiences of participants in battles and campaigns one often comes across stories of apparently well authenticated instances where men seemingly had a forewarning of their approaching doom, and who, after making the arrangements naturally attendant on such a foreknowledge, such as disposition of property, messages to relatives, and so on, met their doom accordingly. Among soldiers and sailors as a class a belief that such premonitions do occur, and that the catastrophe foreshadowed is resultant is largely entertained, though I don't know why it should be so, unless it is that their trade deals in "battle and murder and in sudden death." In conversation on this subject many a time I have been asked if during my soldier life I had known instances where these so-called premonitions were fulfilled. I replied that I had, and then again I knew of so-called premonitions just as vivid in the mind of the subject which had not been fulfilled. I can assure you that all nature is a mystery, and, while I believe in an overruling Providence, I know that He has mercifully withheld from mankind the knowledge of the day and hour of death. And yet once upon a time my heart went down into my boots, so to speak, under the firm belief that I was to be killed before the setting of the sun—a premonition that didn't materialize, however, as we doubtless have seen from time to time.

On the 23d of July, 1863, when the army of Gen. Lee was retreating from Gettysburg behind the mountain wall of the Blue Ridge, the federal cavalry took possession of the gaps and were very "sassy" in their repeated assaults upon the long line of transportation. As our cavalry had been literally run off its legs, Lee was forced to make use of his inferiority in numbers, and so it happened that the writer's division (17th Virginia) was detached and ordered into Manassas gap, opposite Fort Royal, to hold it while the wagon trains were passing. Now, it was a beautiful morning, and as we trudged along in high spirits from the ozone of the mountain air, some ill-boding ravens of a comrade suddenly suggested, "Why, this is Murray's birthday," and so it was. I held it fast for the time being. Instantly the captain and just were silenced, and the fellows looked at me with pitying sympathy, for we expected to have a fight before the day was ended. You see, it was an old woman's tale with us that the man who went into battle on his birthday would inevitably lose his life. I don't mind confessing that the cold chills chased each other rapidly down my spinal column, and I left the matter lightly. What was passed over was the internally evident tender sympathy that was demonstrated by my comrades. They were earnest in the belief that if we had a battle I was a gone coon. As soon as our arms were stacked at the point we were to defend, while all the rest of the men were scattered about after luscious blackberries, which were growing in profusion in the fields, I snatched off into the bushes and drawing my Testament I dashed out the "Sermon on the Mount," but I could not shake off the gloomy depression of spirits, and was only hopeful that there wouldn't be a fight that day after all. This hope was fallacious, for it had scarcely passed through my mind before a rattling fire from our pickets announced the presence of the enemy. As I ran to the state of affairs there was but one thought—to do my duty, come what might—and afterward I felt more comfortable. It is not to the purpose to speak of the fight, which lasted till sun-down. Suffice it to say that men were knocked down to the right and left of me, and I came out of the affair smilingly, without a scratch. None of our boys believed in old woman's tales after that. To show how deeply this superstition had permeated the minds of the men of the 17th, a coon, captain told me that if he had had the slightest excuse for putting me on duty in the rear he would have sent me there when the fight began, and that while the battle was going on he looked every minute to see me fall.

Guarding against Cholera.

The national board of health addressed a circular letter to the governor of each state in the union, calling attention to the prevalence of Asiatic cholera in Europe, its steady progress westward from India and Egypt during the past two years, and the danger of its reaching this country in 1855, unless prompt action is taken against its introduction through seaports. The circular advises that no person be allowed to travel on board ship to Europe, or to any port of the United States, without a certificate of health issued by a physician, and that no vessel be allowed to enter any port of the United States, unless it has been certified by a physician that it is free from cholera.

Boston's Brantford Quadrangle.

Boston Courier.

Ira Gray, who was familiar to the citizens of Boston many years ago, is still in the land of the living, and was in the city not long since. Probably not one man in a thousand in Boston to-day remembers who or what Ira Gray was. Well, he was the handsomest quadroon of his day, and the most accomplished gambler ever seen in Boston. He and his brother-in-law, Coburn, kept a private house in Southie corner of North End street, and the house was the rendezvous of the best of Boston society. These we held until the enemy in front of us had flushed and routed by the 7th regiment of our brigade. Searching over the gory field I found my comrade literally riddled with bullets, but still alive and conscious. He had fallen almost at the first volley from the enemy. As soon as he saw me he said, "I told you so. Do what I asked you. Get the sergeant to give me some opium and let me die easily." I did what I asked, and the next morning was laid in a carpeted bower, wrapped him in the field of honor, the bursting shell over his grave, the enemy's guns (the second day's battle was then raging), forming a fitting salute for his obsequies.

Now, "Boss" was a man of immense vitality and supreme nerve. I do not recollect ever before this date to have seen him give way to mortal depression or nervous faints. Were his sudden depression and his death mere coincidences?

A sergeant, now of the police force, who was formerly of battery G, 2d United States artillery, informs me that while fighting his gun at Frazer's Farm, and when the action was so hot that a man had no time to judge in sentimental fancies, he was suddenly seized with the idea he was sighting his gun that he would be shot in the top of the head. He felt the extreme burning and throbbing, and at the same time his features were failing and the men being killed around him (it was an awful hot place, for Jackson's men were on two sides of the battery), the spot burned and throbbed more and more, until he was forced to leave the gun.

DURKEE'S SALAD DRESSING & COLD MEAT.

For all kinds of salads, fish, vegetables, and cold meats. Cheaper and better than made.

No sauce equal to it was ever offered.

## THE STALWART DESERTION.

How the Friends of Conkling Put in Their Work in Oneida County.

New York Sun.

UTICA, Nov. 13.—The stalwart deserter to the democracy in this county was not a sudden movement, as indicated by the manifesto of Oct. 23. The manifesto was a sudden conception, but the plan to turn the county against Blaine was carefully worked up during the canvass. It strengthened under the visit of Mr. Conkling and that of his envoys, George C. Gorham and John P. Smyth. It took form in keeping stalwarts off the congress and county tickets. Especially, it is alleged, was this the case with the congress ticket. State Senator H. J. Coggeshall was a candidate for the nomination of congress, and a stalwart, and it was agreed that while nearly every man at his gun was wounded, in spite of his presentment, he emerged from this bloody battle without injury.

The sergeant told me another story of the day, which was as follows: having been remonstrated with in his letter to the town, he was a strong follower of his nomination, for the reason that he would be good politics. He is a stalwart and strong with the boys. His nomination would have strengthened the electoral ticket, and would have been in accord with his ambition. Just why he was not nominated has never been written.

The explanation is given, by one who claims to know the truth:

The day before the congress district convention at Utica, John F. Smith paid a visit to Utica. It is known that he went further into town than the interior of Baggs' hotel. There he met leading members of the anti-Blaine stalwarts; also a number of democrats friendly to Mr. Conkling. It is understood that Congressman Spriggs and Mr. Gorham, both other stalwarts had a conference the same day. It was agreed that Congressmen Blaine, Gorham, and Coggeshall would be candidates for the nomination of congress, and a stalwart from the town. There was a strong following of his nomination, for the reason that he would be good politics. He is a stalwart and strong with the boys. His nomination would have strengthened the electoral ticket, and would have been in accord with his ambition. Just why he was not nominated has never been written.

Ladies and gentlemen invited. 11.

## ARMY AND NAVY NEWS.

First Lieut. Morris C. Wassell, 24th Infantry, has had his leave further extended one month.

First Lieut. Louis P. Brant, 1st Infantry, has been detailed as professor of military science and tactics at Hobart college, Geneva, N. Y.

Cadets Frank W. Carnahan, first classman, and John A. Logan, Jr., fourth classman, have received from the West Point military academy.

Commander Augustus G. Kollogg, U. S. N., has been detached from duty as light house inspector at Cincinnati, and placed in waiting to be ordered before the command afloat.

Commanders George C. Remey, James Dunnigan, James H. Sands, and Richard P. Leahy, U. S. N.; Capt. John H. Higbee, marine corps; Capt. John C. M. Ladd, U. S. N.; Capt. Wm. H. Munn, marine corps, with Lieut. George C. Lemly, U. S. N., as judge advocate, compose a court martial which convened yesterday at the navy yard here to try Sergt. E. E. Hopkins, marine corps, for desertion.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

MEMORY GREATLY IMPROVED.

FREE LECTURE BY PROF. A. S. BOYD.

AT Y. M. C. A. BUILDING, 1409 NEW YORK AV.

THIS EVENING AT 7:30.

Ladies and gentlemen invited. 11.

SPLENDID MASONIC CONVENTION.

NOV. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25.

WITH LECTURES, INSPIRATIONAL, 10:30 A. M.

CONCERTS, AND DIVERSIONS, 7:30 P. M.

COLLECTIVE WORK, 10:30 P. M.

ADMISSION, 10 CENTS TO EACH.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, MASS.

Moynihan, pastor. Services at 8:30 A. M.

Holy Communion and sermon, 11 A. M.

Evening prayer and lectures, 7:30 P. M.

Admission, 10 cents.

THE NEW HOUSE OF WISDOM.

OF THE UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, COR.

FOURTH AND RIVERSIDE, WITH BEAUTIFUL

INTERIOR, 10:30 P. M.

ADMISSION, 10 CENTS.

THE CHURCH OF OUR FATHER (UNITED).

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